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GERONTOLOGY COURSE OFFERED OVER CATV

College credit through televised instruction was initiated at Mount Wachusett Community College in February. A three credit course, "Gerontology: Explorations in Aging", is being aired for two hours each Tuesday and Wednesday evening for fifteen weeks over the facilities of Montachusett Cable Television in the communities of Gardner, Fitchburg, and Leominster. The series is cablecast live in Gardner and on a week's delay basis in the other two cities.

According to the series producer and hostess Professor Theresa Twombly, "The Montachusett Region has one of the highest per capita concentrations of elderly in the state and there is a need to increase the number and variety of programs designed for the elderly. Based on these two premises, the course was designed to increase the knowledge of those training to work with the elderly, paraprofessionals now working in the field of gerontology, and the senior citizens.

Each two hour segment presents Ms. Twombly and a guest lecturer in an actual classroom situation. About 12 students participate in each show and represent the three target groups to whom the series is aimed. A sophisticated telephone system has been installed in the TV studio and allows the home viewing students to phone in questions on the air to Ms. Twombly and her guests.

Approximately 8,000 homes subscribe to Montachusett Cable Television in the three city areas. To accommodate those who wish to participate in the course and who do not have cable, seven viewing centers have been set up. At MWCC a four foot by six foot color Advent Video Beam Projector displays the series. Other viewing centers are located at Gardner Junior High School, Gardner High School, Gardner Senior Citizen's Drop-In Center, Fitchburg's Memorial Junior High School, The South East School in Leominster, and the Leominster Senior Citizen's Drop-In Center.

The first 10 lectures have been divided into three main areas: the biological, sociological, and psychological processes of aging. Other units will discuss such topics as pre-retirement and retirement; nutrition; medical problems; home care; housing; consumerism and income management; housing; legal problems; and state, federal, and local programs for the elderly.

MWCC President Arthur Haley welcomes the in-studio students during the first show of "Gerontology: Explorations in Aging" as the series' hostess Theresa Twombly looks on. The course is being offered for credit over the facilities of Montachusett Cable Television in Gardner, Fitchburg and Leominster. Sixty hours of instruction will be provided during the 15 week TV semester.

The list of guest lecturers is extensive and represents a wide-variety of expertise and familiarity with the problems in aging. The guest lecturers include: Gretchen Batra, Boston University; Philip Fallon, Assumption College; Professor Krause, Northeastern University; Professor Bikofsky, Quinsigamond Community College; Charles Moore, Cambridge.

Eleanor Gilmartin, Montachusett Home Care; Harold Wilson, Winchendon Rural Housing and Improvement Incorporated; Ray McConnell, State Council for Elder Affairs, Professor Levitan, Center for State Management at Suffolk University; Brud O'Neil, Montachusett Agency for Aging; Dennis Hill, Leicester Junior College; and Samuel Harmon, Legal Counsel to the Secretary for Elderly Affairs.

In addition to each lecture and discussion a 15 to 20 minute entertainment segment is presented featuring senior citizens and their activities. These enjoyable featurettes have already presented several concerts by Gardner's Golden Memories Band and Fitchburg's Sundial Apartments Kitchen Band. Percussionist Camille Richard has displayed his versatility and talent in a solo segment. The Gardner Drop-In Center Mixed Choral Group and the Fitchburg Drop-In Center Retired Men's Chorus have also been featured.

Academic flexibility is built into the course's structure and students have the option to take the course for either three credits or one credit. A certificate may also be earned by those who sign up for the course and have shown good attendance at a "viewing location" or "watching at home". One academic credit is given to those who sign up for the course and view the first five weeks, "The Process of Aging. Biological, Sociological, and Psychological."

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Grand Prix de Resistance d'Avions en Papier Raises Scholarship Funds

A large group of students and faculty watched the two days of paper airplane competition. Over one hundred budding aeronautical engineers took part in the competition.

Professor Norman Tandy, the contest's sponsor, oversees the flight of a design launched by staff member Guen Morgan from the third floor commons balcony. Thirty dollars was awarded in prize money.

The traditional schoolboy art of paper airplane making enjoyed a revival as the college community participated in the First Annual Grand Prix de Resistance d'Avions en Papier. The object of the contest was to build a paper airplane that would have the longest duration aloft when launched from the balcony of the college's commons.

A fee of one dollar was charged for each entry launched with the proceeds going to the Teaching Faculty Association's Scholarship Fund. Eric Vickery won the first prize of $15.00 with a 15.8 second flight. Chris Cookman won $10.00 for the second longest flight of 15 seconds and Brian Miner's design earned him the third prize of $5.00.

The contest was held over a two day period and saw over 100 budding aeronautical designers test their aircraft. The contest's construction rules required that each airplane be constructed of one sheet of 8½" x 11" paper, although any weight and material content was acceptable.

The builders were allowed to join their planes by folding or cutting them in any fashion. The only additional fastening material that could be used was up to one foot of standard ¾" cellophane tape.

The entire sheet of paper had to be used. If the aircraft was constructed with only part of the sheet of paper, the remainder of the sheet had to be carried as a "payload." The aircraft had to be "free" for its entire duration, and the flight was disqualified if it touched the walls or any other object.

The architectural beauty of the College's Commons has been serving as the source of artistic inspiration to the students enrolled in the Art Curriculum. Art instructor Kirby Shanklin is pictured here discussing a drawing in progress with student Ann Conant.

Students of Professor Raymond Roger's Systems Design and Development course gained two weeks of hands-on training on DEC System 10 Computers at the Digital Equipment Corporations Westminster plant. Pictured [l to r] are Rebecca Pisaruk, Professor Rogers, Susan Cormier, Philip Cormier, Carol Lambert, Gordon Starkweather, Scott Brigham, DEC Operations Supervisor Edward Faneux, Ralph Alover, Andy Kalinowski, and Mark Zablonski.

The Public Communications Curriculum Advisory Committee met on March 14 to discuss several changes in the PC program. Attending the meeting were: [seated l to r] Mark Stevens, Broadcast Manager WGBG-TV; Prof. Vincent Ialenti, PC Curriculum Coordinator; John Gamel, News Department WSMW-TV; Dr. David Ryder, Director of Instructional Media, Fitchburg State; Joe Lamb, Ft. Devens ASA Television Complex;
Standing [l to r] Douglas Rowe, Executive Secretary, Massachusetts Broadcasters Association; Don Boutwell, General Manager WGAW; Pete Burrel, Director of Instructional TV, Boston University; Larry Strout MWCC '75; Tom Kolodziejczak MWCC '73; William Philips, Sales Engineer, Lake Inc.; Michael Bartalan, Radio-TV Officer, Ft. Devens; Hank Senott, President, Massachusetts Student Broadcasters Assoc.; Ronald Hammacher, General Manager Montachusett CATV; Terry Boone; General Manager WCAT; Robert Cohen, Program Director, WEIM.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED TO GS STUDENTS

Forming definite vocational plans is a problem for most people. In order to assist General Studies students in this area, "Introduction to Career Opportunities" was instituted this Spring. The three credit course was set up to help the students assess their interests and abilities, to introduce them to a wide range of career possibilities and to assist students in finding a correlation between their interests and abilities and the requirements of various career areas.

The course is being team taught with representatives from each of the college's five academic divisions and various career programs meeting with the students. The semester began with the presentation of a course overview by Professor John O. McLaughlin, Chairman of the Division of Social Science and the course's coordinator.

The Student Personnel Services Staff spent the next few weeks discussing the value of self-examination and how to discover one's aptitudes and interests. The remainder of the course is made up of various career presentations.

The lectures are designed to discuss with the students the personal characteristics necessary to achieve success in a particular field, educational preparation, related employment fields, and the advantages and disadvantages of employment in the area.

Each student is required to prepare a report on each career area that is presented. It is hoped that this will assist the student in solidifying his plans. Twenty-one February General Studies entrants are currently enrolled in the course and all GS freshmen entering in September will be required to take the course.

MWCC staff producer-director [l to r] Joel Anderson consults with Internal Revenue Agent Paul Gibbons, Tax consultant Jackie Wallace and IRS Public Information Director Edward Callanan before the taping of one of two TV programs on "How to Prepare Your Income Tax." The shows were prepared for airing on CATV systems throughout the state.

Chief Engineer Tom Milligan makes a final adjustment in master control before the taping of the IRS series. The installation of the college's TV facilities is just about completed.

JACK McNALLY APPOINTED AS TENNIS COACH

Director of Athletics, Dr. Richard G. Rollins, has announced the appointment of John F. McNally as Mount Wachusett Community College's Tennis Coach.

Jack received his B.S. from South East Missouri State College, M.S. from the University of Colorado, and C.A.G.S. from New York University. All of his undergraduate and graduate preparation has been in the area of Physical Education, Health Education, and Recreation.

Currently, Jack holds the full-time position of "Liaison Officer for Community Health and Drug Prevention" for the Fitchburg Public Schools and is considered an expert in the area of drug abuse education and interpersonal relationships.

Jack brings an extensive background of teaching, coaching, and participation in physical education and athletics to the Mount's Intercollegiate Athletic Staff. He has coached and taught Tennis, as well as other physical skills, in elementary schools, junior high, high school, and college. He has also had a great deal of experience teaching and coaching tennis in public and private clubs and agencies. As a member of the United States Lawn Tennis Association, Jack is an active tournament player participating in local and regional matches throughout the year.

In addition to his expertise in Tennis, Jack has played professional soccer with the Kansas City Spurs and has coached soccer at the University of Colorado, Rockhurst College in Kansas City, and Husson College in Maine.

Dr. Rollins is extremely pleased that Jack has accepted the position. "I feel that his background and experience in physical education and athletics will be of great value to our program." "He has been involved in athletics at all levels, all of his life and knows how to coach.

John F. McNally

He has a feel for education and the student, is a master teacher, and communicates very well. I feel that our tennis program is in good, experienced hands, and am confident that the tennis program under his leadership will become an asset to Mount Wachusett Community College."

CATV COURSE . . .

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An exam is required at the end of the five week period. Three credits will be given for those who sign up for the course and demonstrate knowledge of the whole course based on a final exam given at the end of the course.

According to Professor Twombly, "Two types of printed "handouts" are available each week to those who sign up for the course or to anyone expressing interest in having the "handouts". The first handout is oriented toward senior citizens and individuals training to work with the elderly and serve as a practical guideline orientation to the course. The second handout is oriented toward active citizens who may be interested in programs for the elderly and paraprofessionals in Gerontology. This handout primarily covers program advocacy and available programs and explores the needs of the elderly in this area."

"The public's response to the course has been very gratifying," Ms. Twombly stated, "Over 100 people registered for the course. The TV students are distributed rather evenly among the three cities. About 66% are taking and participating in the series for one or three credits and one-third have chosen the certificate option."

The funding to produce the series was awarded to the college by the Executive office of Educational Affairs in conjunction with the Department of Elder Affairs as a subcontract from the Federal Title IV-A Elder Educational Grant, Older Americans Act.

The series is produced in the color studios of MWCC with production assistance provided by the students in the college's Public Communications Curriculum. Professor Twombly is aided by a staff of Community Coordinators including Rita O'Malley, Rina Knight, Phyllis Lord, Eunice Grenier, Mrs. Metivier, Wendy Roach and Dorothy Baer.

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The Newman Association sponsored two talks by Dr. Vincent Forde, Professor of Religious Studies, Holy Cross College. The lectures were funded by the Distinguished Visitors Committee and were designed to present topics of interest to students in nursing, biology and psychology. Dr. Forde's topics were "Human Sexuality and Relationships; Marriage and Friendship," and "Life and Death Issues: (Abortion, Euthanasia...)"

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